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Urgent
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: William N. WEAVER)
Robert E. UNGAR)
Lonnie R. SEYMOUR)
Serial No.: 09/714,340) Group: 3721
Filed: 16 November 2000) Examiner: L.B. Tran
Title: SYSTEM AND APPARATUS FOR)
PACKAGING CONTAINERS)

AMENDMENT

RECEIVED

NOV 21 2002

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed on 09 August 2002, Applicants
amend the subject application as follows:

1. (Amended) A system for packaging multiple containers, the
system comprising the steps of:

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Signature

ITW-12833

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Serial No.: 09/714,340

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moving a carrier through an applying machine, the carrier constructed of flexible plastic having a plurality of elongated apertures aligned in transverse ranks, which elongated apertures are oriented in a longitudinal direction of the carrier and have a longitudinal pitch between a center of each adjacent elongated aperture, the longitudinal pitch having a first length;

moving a plurality of containers through the applying machine, each container of the plurality of containers having a maximum diameter having a second length shorter than the first length and each container of the plurality of containers spaced at the first length apart from an adjacent container by the applying machine; and

positioning the carrier over the plurality of containers whereby each elongated aperture engages with one of the containers to form a package having a container pitch between a center of adjacent containers approximately equal to the second length.

No additional fee is necessary as the total number of claims remains the same.

REMARKS

Applicants urge reconsideration of the subject U.S. patent application in